

issued by the Eclectic Board, 294; total number issued by the several boards, 2209.

"Total number of legal practitioners in the state, 1663. The number of persons practicing medicine in this state without a license, 485. Total number practicing in this state, 2148. The estimated population of the state is 1,036,298. Proportion of population to each licentiate of this board reported in this state, 838 +."

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The last directory issued by the present Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California, which appeared on March 3, 1927, shows that in California a total of 9193 physicians and surgeons are now on the active list of the state board. Of that number 7699 physicians and surgeons are residing within the confines of the state. The estimated population at this time exceeds 4,500,000.

These last figures make an interesting contrast to those just mentioned, and which were taken from the 1885 reports of the state examining board.

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Forty years have come and gone since 1888, and in these four decades California has been the scene of a transformation that is almost staggering when the wonderful changes that have everywhere taken place are contemplated.

These notes are here made not only to call attention to facts such as above are briefly indicated, but particularly to remind all members who may know of documents or publications which could shed light on the earlier days of medicine in California to at least write to the central office of the Association in regard thereto.

The special committee on archives and history of the California Medical Association, of which Dr. Emmet Rixford of San Francisco is chairman, would then be in a position to avail itself of such data in the compilation of historical material which is now being gathered.

#### THE TUBERCULOSIS PROBLEM OF CALIFORNIA—AT PRESENT AND IN RETROSPECT

When the history of preventive medicine in America is written, the chapters devoted to the important part played by the antituberculosis agencies, of necessity will find a place in more than one chapter of such a chronicle.

For it must be remembered that after what might be called the sanitary engineering impetus given to modern preventive medicine, which came about through the publication of the reports on the conditions of wage-earners in England about the year 1850—and the later vastly broader insight concerning the causative agents of infectious diseases, as developed in 1870 to 1900 through Pasteur's researches and the new science of bacteriology—there came into consideration a third vital factor in public health progress, which might be termed the human or social service element; this

new factor finding its special and greatest development in the efforts to overcome the unnecessary deaths caused by that ubiquitous disease, tuberculosis.

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The immense progress made in the prevention of infectious diseases—through measures which were not only aimed at elimination of inciting germ causes but also at contributory social deficiency factors—and which progress has been such an outstanding phenomenon in all civilized countries during the last quarter of a century, has been particularly associated with the disease, tuberculosis. In addition the educational campaign on measures designed to aid in lessening the ravages caused by the great white plague were carried out in such comprehensive and thorough manner that lay citizens as well as medical men were educated and enlisted in large numbers to do their respective parts in the preventive work.

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Twenty-five years or so ago California had morbidity and mortality statistics relating to tuberculosis that gave the state, and especially its southern section, a quite unenviable reputation throughout the East. Today, when the splendid progress in antituberculosis work which has been made in these recent years of concentrated effort is noted, it is gratifying to realize that through volunteer physician workers California early took up the serious consideration of that important public health problem, the Southern California Antituberculosis Society, founded by Dr. F. M. Pottenger, being about the seventh organization to come into existence in the United States.

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It is interesting to look back at the efforts of those days and to note how the continued work in the efforts and for the measures then brought into existence have resulted in such splendid results for our state. At that time, before the advent of the American Red Cross Christmas seals, which today are the means of replenishing to large extent the treasuries of the local agencies dealing with tuberculosis, the writer devised two such stamps at the Yuletide season for the California association; stipulating also that in the circularization of those stamps in Los Angeles city and county, that one-half of the net proceeds should go to the state tuberculosis association so that its educational and propaganda work might be carried to other portions of California.

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Through the continued agitation as to its purposes and in the publicity given to the clinics which it sponsored, what might be called the paper state tuberculosis organization secured an appropriation from the California legislature of 1911 which enabled the State Board of Health to cause a special investigation into the tuberculosis problem of California, to "ascertain the effects of localities, employments, conditions and circumstances upon the health of those developing the disease, and to determine the best means for its eradication. To this end a commission consisting

of an executive board of five members and an advisory board of fifty members was appointed by the State Board of Health to carry on this work."

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The writer had the honor to be elected chairman of that commission, its report being printed by the California State Printing Office in 1914.

In essence that report laid "special stress upon the importance of the county and city governments taking up the tuberculosis problems as community rather than as purely state problems," and particularly recommended a Bureau of Tuberculosis as a new department of the State Board of Health; as well as a revolving state fund designed to encourage county boards of supervisors to provide better aid to the indigents suffering from tuberculosis who were admitted to county hospitals.

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The state tuberculosis association from the very beginning worked hand in hand with this newly established bureau, and through all these following years has given whole-hearted support to private and local community as well as to state efforts aiming to lessen the incidence of tuberculosis among our citizens.

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The charts which have been published by the California State Board of Health show that the tuberculosis death rate of 225 per 100,000 population in 1916 was reduced in twenty years to lower than 140 deaths per 200,000 population. In the period 1906 to 1921, a period of fifteen years, some 14,469 lives were saved through the better hygienic and therapeutic measures largely brought into being by the joint efforts of the California Tuberculosis Association and the Bureau of Tuberculosis of the California State Board of Health.

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These facts and figures are given because all this is creditable to California citizenship and particularly to the small group of medical colleagues and their lay associates who in the last score of years have most generously given of themselves so that this good work might be adequately supervised and carried on.

The statement has been made from time to time that this comparatively small group of workers have had only a handful of persons at the annual meetings, but that fact does not detract but rather adds to the credit which should go to these colleagues. Their unselfish loyalty to the cause, their willingness to give intelligent and broad-visioned service to the continued development of this important work, have been important elements in accounting for the beneficent results which are now so much to the credit of California.

The influence of those leaders, many of whom have been identified with the work almost from the beginning, has been a large and a determining factor in giving boards of supervisors a proper orientation of this important public health problem; and explains in good part why and how

those officials in many counties in our state passed the necessary laws for the erection of the many modern sanatoria which have taken the place of what might be justly called the black death rooms of the old tuberculosis wards which existed in some of our larger county hospitals only two or three decades ago.

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Today the recommendations of the California State Commission made in 1914 have been copied by more than one state in the Union, because of their soundness and practical value. Those measures, with the passing of the succeeding years, have given evidence of merit far greater than even their sponsors imagined them to possess.

In the year 1928, California handles this important tuberculosis problem not on a state sanatorium basis, but as a community county problem, which is as it should be. As a result, some of the most up-to-date and efficient public sanatoria in America have been and are still being erected in California.

The annual governmental appropriations to these California institutions represent the interest money on what would be an endowment of more than thirty millions of dollars, a sum of money which would never have been raised had the agitation been confined to efforts to secure donations from private citizens.

These splendid results in the prevention of tuberculosis, which all these things represent in the public health work record of California, should give all citizens a feeling of pride; and we who are also physicians may feel especially so in the knowledge that from the beginning the leadership in this altruistic and humanitarian endeavor has been particularly associated with medical men, and the executive associates whom they chose as being well fitted to aid in carrying on the work in efficient manner.

**Compensation for Child Workers, Illinois**—On July 1, 1927, the new provisions of the Illinois Workmen's Compensation Act came into effect, under which illegally employed children who are injured in industrial accidents are now entitled to the benefits of the act and will also receive compensation amounting to one and a half times as much as they would have received if they had been legally employed. Before this legislation was passed illegally employed children had no rights under the compensation act but had to bring suit against their employers under the common law in case of injury. This remedy, however, was tried in comparatively few cases because of the cost, uncertainty, and delay of court procedure. It is expected that under the new law employers will observe more carefully the state child labor law and will demand adequate proof of age from their minor workers.—U. S. Department of Labor.

**"Mothers' Aid" Granted by Institutions**—Four institutions conducted under church auspices in North and South Carolina, finding that some children for whom institutional care was requested could be cared for in their own homes if the mothers had the necessary means to support them, are now giving "mothers' aid" in such cases. South Carolina is one of the six states which at present has no law granting aid to children in their own homes.—United States Department of Labor.